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## CLAIMS

1. A surgical suture comprising at least one sterile hard elastic filament of a body-compatible polymer.

2. A surgical suture as in claim 1 wherein the suture is a monofilament.

3. A surgical suture as in claim 2 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, poly(butene-1), ethylene-butylene copolymer, nylon and polyester.

4. A surgical suture as in claim 3 wherein the monofilament is 0.020-0.039 mm in diameter. 14

5. A surgical suture as in claim 2 wherein the monofilament is 0.05-0.199 mm in diameter. 14

6. A surgical suture as in claim 2 wherein the polymer is polypropylene or poly(butene-1) and the Young's modulus of the filament is 0.25-5.0 g/denier. 14

7. A surgical suture as in claim 1 wherein the suture is a multifilament suture.

8. A surgical suture as in claim 7 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, poly(butene-1), ethylene-butylene copolymer, nylon and polyester.

9. A surgical suture as in claim 8 wherein the multifilament suture is a braided suture.

10. A surgical suture as in claim 1 wherein the polymer is a body-absorbable polymer.

11. A surgical suture as in claim 10 wherein the polymer is selcted from the group consisting of poly-hydroxybutyric acid, polyglycolic acid and polylactic acid.

12. A needled surgical suture comprising at least one sterile hard elastic filamentof a body-compatible polymer attached to a sterile surgical needle.

13. A needled surgical suture as in claim 12 wherein the polymer is polypropylene or poly(butene-1).

14. A surgical suture package comprising a sterile enclosure containing a sterile needled surgical suture, the suture comprising at least one hard elastic filament of a body-compatible polymer.

15. A surgical suture package as in claim 14 wherein the polymer is polypropylene or poly(butene-1).

16. A method of suturing by stitching with at least one sterile hard elastic filament made of a body-compatible polymer.

17. A method as in claim 16 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, poly-(butene-1), ethylene-butylene copolymer, nylon and poly-ester.

18. A method as in claim 17 wherein the polymer is polypropylene and the filament is 0.020-0.039 mm. in diameter.

19. A method as in claim 17 wherein the filament has a Young's modlus of 0.25-5.0 g/denier.

20. A method as in claim 16 wherein said stitching is performed in corneal surgery.

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